

CREATURES OF THE NIGHT

ST. AUGUSTINE
Alligator Farm
ZOOLOGICAL • PARK

DECEMBER 2005



999 Anastasia Blvd • St. Augustine, FL 32080 • (904) 824-3337

CREATURES OF THE NIGHT

Ghosts, goblins, princesses, and power rangers emerged from the darkness to attend the St. Augustine Alligator Farm's first annual Halloween event, Creatures of the Night. The event was hugely successful with hundreds of children trick-or-treating through the park at designated creepy creature stations. Costumed staff members displayed spooky animals at each station such as albino alligators, tarantulas, and owls. The children enjoyed the candy, but the big hit was the creepy creature cards they received. Each card had a photo of the animal and facts on the back. The evenings concluded with an alligator feeding show and a drawing for an annual family pass. It was such a fun and enjoyable event for everyone; we can't wait to plan for next year's Creatures of the Night!

To view more pictures visit our website:

www.alligatorfarm.com



Night Vision

By David Kledzik, Reptile Curator

One thing that all 23 species of crocodilians have in common is that they are nocturnal, meaning they are more active at night than during the day. Swimming around at night looking for food can be very difficult. To help with this, crocodilian eyes have adapted in several ways in order to help them better see in the dark. Crocodilians have a typical vertebrate eye, being a large spherical eyeball enclosing the light sensitive retina. Improvements to this design were made by adding a vertical shaped pupil, as opposed to the round pupil in humans. This not only allows for more light to enter the eye at

night, but also limits the amount of light entering the sensitive eye during the day by closing the pupil to a narrow slit. Another advance in the crocodilian eye is a reflective layer behind the retina called the *tapetum lucidum*, Latin for "bright carpet". This bright carpet acts like a mirror, reflecting any light that misses the retina back towards the light receptor cells of the eye. The *tapetum lucidum* is also responsible for the eye shine you see whenever a bright light is shone at crocodilians eyes during the night. The light hits the tapetum and is reflected back out the eye towards anyone looking directly at the crocodilian.

Maximo and Sydney

are the proud
parents of
6 baby boys
&
6 baby girls



Born: August 16 & 17, 2005

Length: 7 Inches Weight: Less than 1lb. each



General Wildlife First Place ~ Susan Hanson



Best In Show



General Wildlife Second Place ~ Joe Campanellie

2005 PHOTO CO



Birds First Place ~ Eva Furner



General Wildlife Third Place ~ Harry Behret



Birds Second Place ~ Scott Bourne



w ~ Paul Pfau



Reptiles First Place ~ Wayne Love

CONTEST WINNERS



Birds Third Place ~ Sandra Samojuden



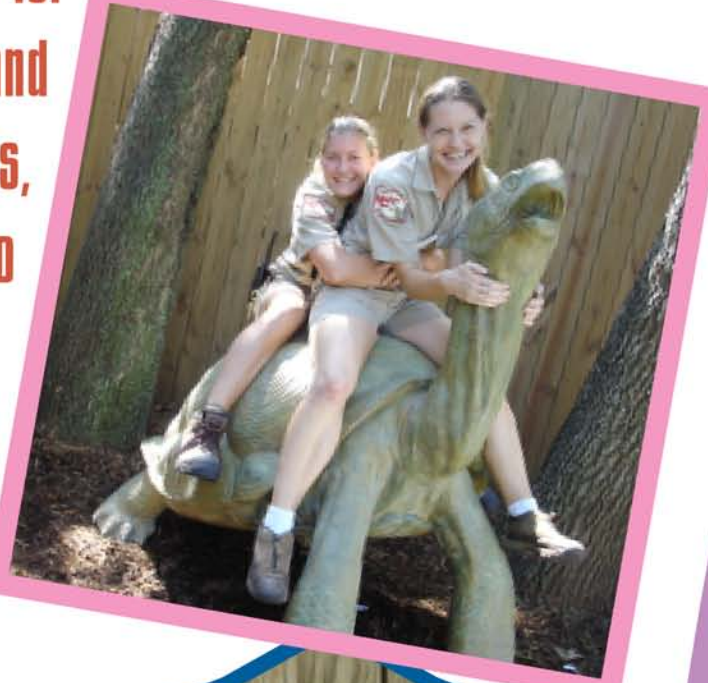
Reptiles Second Place ~ Gayle Robideaux



Reptiles Third Place ~ Erik Rosengren

The KidsZone is here!

There's a new area of the park just for kids. With fun things to play on and special kid's eye viewing of exhibits, the KidsZone is a perfect place to go WILD. You can act like a swinging monkey or slide like an alligator on the new play set. There's even a giant Galapagos Tortoise you can climb on. We will be adding more fun features, so be sure to spend some time in the KidsZone next time you are at the park!



SANTA'S COMING!

We hope you have been good this year,
because Santa Claus will be at the Alligator
Farm waiting to hear
what you want for
Christmas.



Maximo
Brook
Hunter
Bomber
Zorro
Oprah
Annie

VISIT SANTA ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.

DECEMBER 17TH & 18TH

FROM 9:30AM - 12:00PM AND 2:30PM - 5:00PM

PHOTOS WITH SANTA ~ \$10.00

Answer the call . . .

RECYCLE!

The St. Augustine Alligator Farm is collecting used cell phones and their accessories to raise funds for various wildlife conservation programs. Through an innovative program, our partner in this project, Eco-Cell, will send 80% of the phones to first-time, low income users in Latin America or to selected organizations, such as Battered Women's Programs for emergency use (911 calls).

100% of funds raised will go to wildlife conservation programs such as the Lion Tamarin Fund, the Tomistoma Task Force, and the IUCN's Crocodile Specialist Group.

Collection boxes are conveniently located at the entrance of the Alligator Farm. We have set a goal of at least 500 used cell phones by March 2006. So donate your old phones next time you visit the park to help us reach our goal. For each phone you bring in, you will receive a free cup of Alligator food!



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NEWS

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KidsZone



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